

Arneytown Tavern

North Hanover Township, Burlington County, New Jersey

Chickadee field view

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Arneytown Tavern
North Hanover Township, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: William H. Grover, Arneytown

Date of Erection: About 1731

Architect:

Builder: William Lawrie

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Two and one-half; one story wing

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - clapboards;
porch on front elevation of
main house

Interior walls - plaster and
panel

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, tin over wood
shingles

Historical Data:

The Arneytown Tavern is also known as the Lawrie House. In 1664 King Charles II granted to his brother James, Duke of York, among other things all of what is now New Jersey. The Duke of York in turn granted the Providence of New Jersey to Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkley. In 1675, Lord

Berkley sold his share comprising West Jersey to John Fenwick for Edward Byllinge. In the same year, Byllinge conveyed his interest to William Penn, Gawain Lawrie, and Nicholas Lucas. In 1676 Penn, Lawrie, and Lucas took over all of what is now South Jersey and became the original proprietors under the Berkley grant.

From this it would appear that the Lawries were in possession of an undivided third interest in the property of West Jersey as early as 1776.

The earliest settler in this district was Daniel Leeds, who purchased a thousand acre tract from the proprietors before 1704. Part of this tract passed to John Kirby who in 1720 sold 510 acres to Joseph Arney, from whom it is reasonable to assume came the name Arneytown. The executor of Arney conveyed a tract to John Lawrie.

The earliest record of license belongs to the year 1762 when William Lawrie deeded the tavern to Richard Platt, a son-in-law. It was, however, certainly a tavern before that date. There is a license record for the year 1765; also one for 1781. In 1804, it was run by a man named Willis. In 1813 the Platts again had the tavern. It was in a convenient location between East Jersey and West Jersey and was used by the sheriffs of the two counties for sheriffs' sales. The property came into the possession of Lawrie again in 1807; he advertised it for sale in 1834. The village then consisted of a store, a tavern, fifteen dwellings, and a meeting house.

On one of the rafters in the tavern there is some writing. The first line starts with "March 12, 1765" and the balance of the line is illegible; the next line is "Mary Forsyth, James doth love".

The tavern was the first stop for the stage coaches on their way from the Falls of the Delaware (Trenton) to the Jersey seashore.

The Arneytown Tavern must have been a sort of social center in the eighteenth century. The Newbolds, Biddles, and Lawries, who owned extensive acreage in the neighborhood, must have held many parties here. These Newbolds and Biddles were members of the Philadelphia Assembly, the most ancient of all social events in this country.

Bibliography:


Burlington County court records examined
by Herbert N. Moffett

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Supervising Historian

Approved:



SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

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